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TO AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE 1245

UNCLAS STATE 081358

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KNNP MNUC PARM PREL HR

SUBJECT: T LETTER OF THANKS TO CROATIA STATE SECRETARY
RABOTEG FOR PSI 5TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION

REF: STATE 023570

¶1. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND: Mate Raboteg, Croatian State Secretary of Defense, gave a presentation at the Senior-Level Meeting for all states endorsing the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), held May 28, 2008, in Washington, DC, on the occasion of the PSI's Fifth Anniversary. Raboteg's presentation covered increasing participating in the PSI, with a focus on Croatia's experience, during the panel on ways to continue strengthening the PSI. The PSI Senior-Level Meeting was attended by representatives of 85 countries, almost all of the 92 states that have endorsed the PSI.

¶2. ACTION REQUESTED: Embassy is requested to deliver under appropriate cover the following letter from Acting Under Secretary John Rood to State Secretary of Defense Raboteg, thanking him for his presentation at the PSI Fifth Anniversary Senior-Level Meeting. The State Department does not plan to release the text of this letter but has no objection if the Government of Croatia wishes to do so. There will be no signed original.

¶3. Begin text of letter:

Dear Mr. Raboteg:

On behalf of the U.S. Government, I want to thank you for your presentation on "Increasing Participation within PSI: Croatian Experience," in the panel on ways to continue strengthening the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) at the May 28, 2008 Senior-Level Meeting for PSI participants in Washington DC. Your presentation made an important contribution to the panel and the meeting overall.

I believe the PSI Fifth Anniversary Senior-Level Meeting was very successful in reaffirming the strong commitment of the PSI partner states to respond to the WMD proliferation challenge. It also provided the participants from 85 countries an opportunity to strengthen communication with one another. We hope this event will result in expanded participation in PSI activities, particularly on a regional basis. The United States recognizes that Croatia plays a significant role in the PSI, and we greatly appreciate your Government's continued efforts and contributions to advancing the PSI goals.

Sincerely,

John C. Rood
Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

End text of letter.

¶4. POINTS OF CONTACT: Washington points of contact on the PSI are Jane Purcell (e-mail: PurcelJa@state.gov, 202-647-6186); and Carlos Guzman (e-mail: GuzmanCS@state.gov, 202-647-6320). Department appreciates Post's assistance.
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